

PRESS RELEASE

EVENT: CIVIL SOCIETY MEETING TO ADVANCE VICTIM PARTICIPATION BEFORE THE AFRICAN COURT

Arusha, March 8th, 2016 - TrustAfrica and the Coalition for an Effective African Court (CEAC) are convening African civil society from across the continent to promote their engagement with the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AcHPR). The meeting aims to advance victims' rights and access to justice through the African Charter establishing the Court. It will be open to journalists with prior accreditation and registration.

WHO: The organizers, Trust Africa's Fund to Advance International Criminal Justice in Africa (ICJ Fund) and the Coalition for an Effective African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (CEAC), will be hosting key personalities, including H.E. Ambassador Fafre Camara, Malian Ambassador in Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union, Justice S.E. Augustino Ramdhani, President of the African Court on Human and People's Rights, as well as lawyers and advocates from Mali, Burundi, South Sudan, Nigeria, the DRC, and Senegal, to name a few.

WHEN: March 8th to March 9th, 2016

WHERE: Mount Meru Hotel in Arusha, Tanzania

WHY: Some misconceptions about Africa and its engagement with peace, justice, and human rights have dominated the global narrative in recent years. But from a closer look at accountability processes on the continent since the early 1990s, the story about Africa's commitment to international justice is very different.

Africa has indeed played a pioneering role in establishing courts with international criminal jurisdiction, spearheaded by advocates from civil society and the independent contributions of a number of governments. While the AU's initiatives on ICJ give decision and policy makers a central role in the discussions, they also recognize the role of African civil society in promoting ICJ practice in Africa.

There have been some significant regional initiatives, such as the creation of the Extraordinary African Chambers in Senegal to try former Chadian President, Hissène



Habré, and the establishment of the AU Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan (AUCISS). These processes provide important opportunities for African civil society to engage with continental, regional, and national efforts to address impunity.

It is critical to build on the momentum generated by these simultaneous processes and promote civil society engagement with the Court. Therefore, the main objectives of this meeting are to:

1. Review victims' statutory role and place in non-judicial and judicial African mechanisms;
2. Examine victims' rights and access to justice in international courts; and
3. Develop a set of recommendations to improve the African Court on Human and People's Rights.

About the Organizers: [TrustAfrica's ICJ Fund](#) aims to strengthen and support civil society efforts to advance domestic and regional accountability mechanisms. The CEAC works to ensure that the AchPR and the African Commission are effective, accessible and credible, providing justice and a recourse to victims of human rights violations.

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For accreditation to cover the Convening and any related queries, please contact:

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